

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising:

an oleaginous fluid, wherein the oleaginous fluid is the continuous phase of the drilling fluid and wherein the oleaginous fluid comprises from about 30% to about 95% by volume of the drilling fluid and the oleaginous fluid of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof;

a non-oleaginous fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid is the discontinuous phase of the drilling fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid comprises from about 5% to about 70% by volume of said drilling fluid and the non-oleaginous fluid is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof;

an organophilic clay, wherein the organophilic clay is present in a concentration of about 0.1% to about 6% by weight;

a primary emulsifier selected from an amidoamine and/or an oleate ester, wherein the primary emulsifier is in sufficient concentration to stabilize the invert emulsion;

a weighting agent, wherein the weighting agent or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of galena, hematite, magnetite, iron oxides, illmenite, barite, siderite, celestite, dolomite, calcite and combinations thereof; and

a rheology modifier, wherein the rheology modifier is a mixture of C₁₂ to C₂₂ poly-carboxylic fatty acids, including at least a dimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, and a trimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, wherein the mixture of poly-carboxylic fatty acids is added in sufficient concentration so that the trimeric poly-carboxylic fatty acid concentration in the drilling fluid is greater than 0.1 pounds per barrel and is up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.

22. (New) A drilling fluid comprising:

an oleaginous fluid, wherein the oleaginous fluid is the continuous phase of the drilling fluid and wherein the oleaginous fluid comprises from about 30% to about 95% by volume of the drilling fluid and the oleaginous fluid of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof;

a non-oleaginous fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid is the discontinuous phase of the drilling fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid comprises from about 5% to about 70% by volume of said drilling fluid and the non-oleaginous fluid is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof;

an organophilic clay, wherein the organophilic clay is present in a concentration of about 0.1% to about 6% by weight;

a primary emulsifier, wherein the primary emulsifier is in sufficient concentration to stabilize the invert emulsion;

a weighting agent, wherein the weighting agent or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of galena, hematite, magnetite, iron oxides, illmenite, barite, siderite, celestite, dolomite, calcite and combinations thereof; and

a rheology modifier, wherein the rheology modifier is polyamide resulting from a condensation reaction between a C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acid and a polyamine.

23. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 22, wherein the polyamine is selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine, and pentaethylenetetraamine.

24. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 22, wherein one equivalent of the fatty acid is reacted for each equivalent of amine present in the polyamine.